

# EDUCATION

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education is a ladder of opportunity. In order to grow the economy from the middle out and the middle up, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made historic investments in Maryland's students – focusing on improving schools, prioritizing career-readiness and making college more affordable

Since 2008, 36 states have moved backward on school funding, but Maryland has increased per-pupil funding in K-12 education to record levels. With an average annual spending level of \$335 million for school construction (the highest average under any Maryland governor), the state's classrooms are newer, brighter, cleaner and better-equipped to offer a 21st Century education than ever before.

Additionally, when Governor O'Malley took office, Maryland's public colleges and universities were the 8th most expensive in the nation. Since 2007, no state has done more to hold down the cost of college. And thanks to the Administration's aggressive and unprecedented four-year tuition freeze, and a hard three-percent cap on new increases, Maryland public colleges and universities have dropped from 8th to 27th most expensive.

And in order to ensure equal access to the opportunities of education, Governor O'Malley signed the DREAM Act to extend in-state tuition to the children of all Marylanders.

These investments are already paying off. Education Week ranked Maryland's public schools #1 in the nation for five consecutive years; Maryland's high school students have scored #1 in AP Success for eight consecutive years according to The College Board; and Maryland has made more progress than any other state in the nation in closing our income achievement gap.

But funding alone is not the secret to student success. If education in Maryland is going to remain a true ladder to opportunity, the state will need to adopt effective 21st century strategies that keep all of our students and teachers ahead of the curve. That's why the O'Malley-Brown Administration has implemented six innovative strategies to improve public schools, which include transitioning to new standards, enhancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and CTE (Career and Technology Education), and providing teacher and principal support.

## BELIEF DRIVES ACTION, ACTION ACHIEVES RESULTS

**#1 in the Nation:** In 2013, Education Week named Maryland's public schools the best in the nation for the 5th consecutive year. In the magazine's 2014 report, Maryland earned the top composite score for the sixth consecutive year.

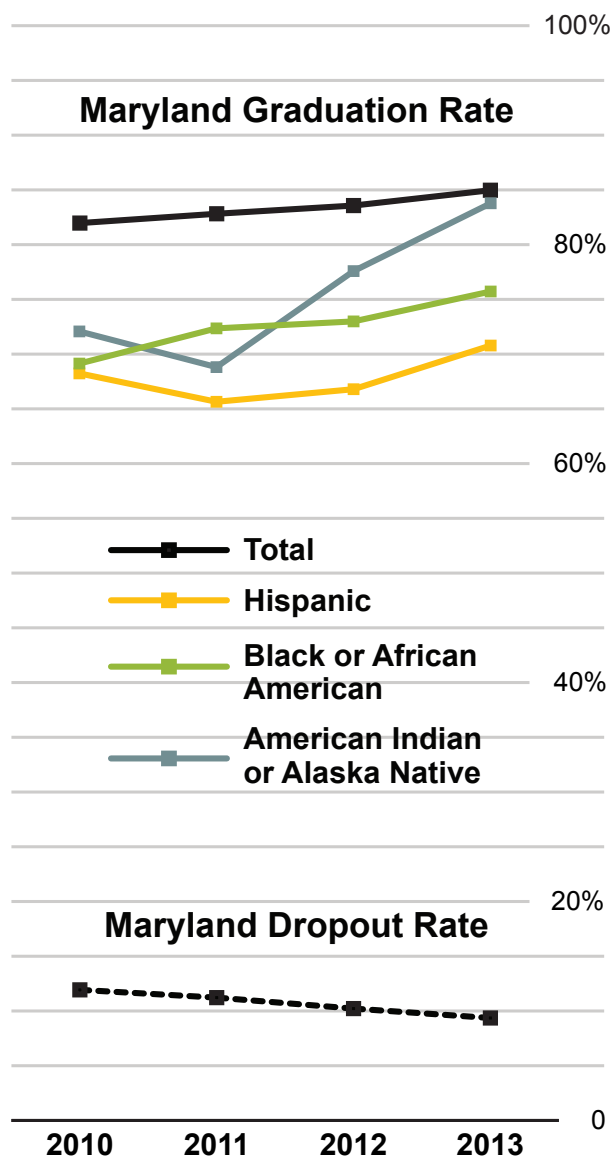
**#1 in AP Success:** In 2014, College Board announced that Maryland students are #1 in Advanced Placement (AP) success for the eighth straight year.

**Gains for Low Income Students:** According to Education Week, Maryland was one of only five states that closed the poverty achievement gap by more than 5 percentage points over the past 10 years.

**Rising Graduation Rate, Falling Dropout Rate:** Maryland's Class of 2013 graduated at a record-high rate of 85% – up from 82% in 2010. In the same period, Maryland's dropout rate fell from 12% to 9%.

**Growth in College Enrollment Among Minorities:** From 2007 to 2013, the number of minority full-time undergraduate students (African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and Asians) at all of Maryland's public two- and four-year institutions increased by 25% (from 46,719 in 2007 to 58,375 in 2013).

**World Class Higher Education Institutions:** University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Johns Hopkins University; St. John's College; St. Mary's College of Maryland; and Loyola University Maryland were recognized in the Princeton Review's list of 2014 Best Schools and Best Value Colleges. The magazine also recognized five Maryland institutions of Higher Learning in its 2013 Best Value Public Colleges list.



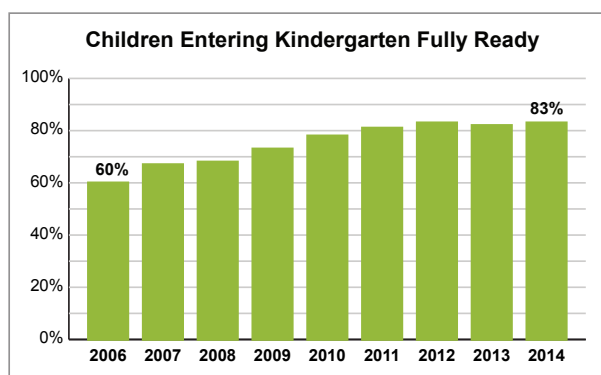
**America's Greatest Education Governor:** In 2010, the National Education Association presented Governor O'Malley with the America's Greatest Education Governor Award. The award is presented each year to a governor who has made major strides to improve public education.

## OVERALL GOAL: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY THE END OF 2015

When the O'Malley-Brown Administration took office in 2007, four out of every ten Maryland children were entering kindergarten unprepared. Only 60% of middle school students passed their Math MSA, and Maryland's colleges were the 8th most expensive in the nation. The O'Malley-Brown Administration took action and set a goal to improve student achievement and school, college, and career readiness by 25% by the end of 2015. By the end of the 2013-2014 school year, Maryland had improved by nearly 35%, far exceeding the 25% goal.

StateStat uses 11 different measures to track the progress being made in reaching our education goal. These goals span the life of a student from pre-Kindergarten to college graduation, and include improving standardized test scores, increasing the number of students taking AP exams, and increasing the number of Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees awarded in Maryland.

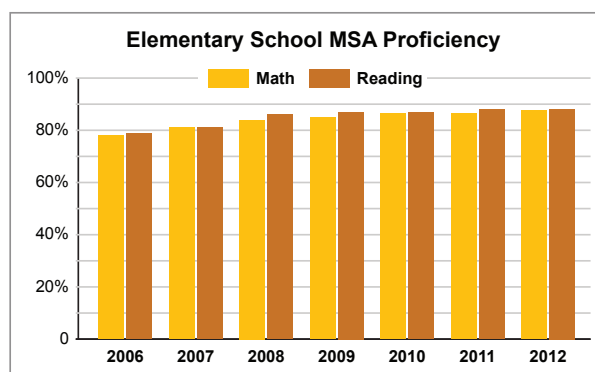
### GOAL: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN FULLY READY BY 25%



**Progress:** In 2013, 83% of Maryland kindergarteners entered school 'ready to learn'- up 38% from 2005. Under the Maryland Model for School Readiness assessment, for a child to be fully ready for school, he or she needs to have mastered key skills and abilities in across several learning domains. In 2014, Governor O'Malley proposed and signed the Prekindergarten



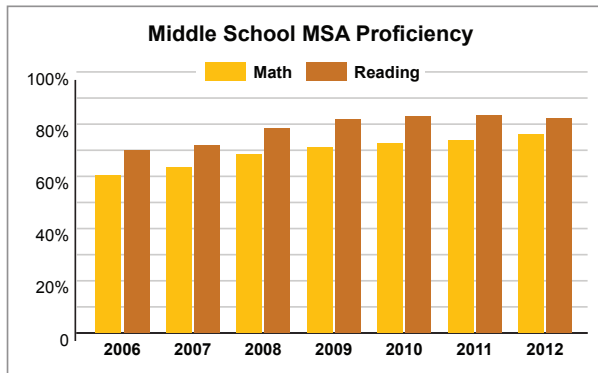
garten Expansion Act, which will support half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten programs for roughly 1,600 more children.



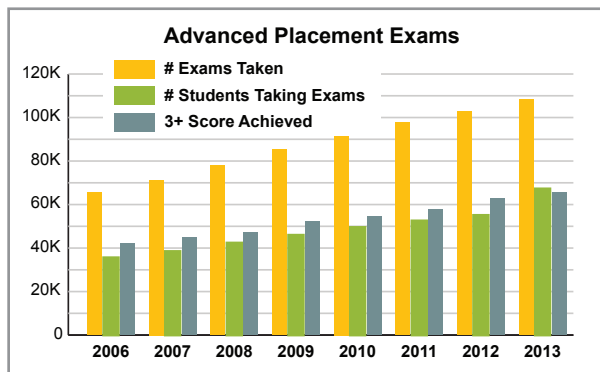
### GOAL: INCREASE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT BY 25%

**Progress:** StateStat currently tracks Elementary and Middle School MSA Proficiency scores, although the state's main test will soon change with the adoption of the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. Comparing the 2005-2006 and 2011-2012 school years, Elementary School MSA Reading and Math scores rose 11.8% and 12.3% respectively; Middle School MSA scores rose even higher, showing 17.5% and 26.6% improvements in reading and math, respectively. Maryland began transitioning to new college and career standards during the 2012-2013 school year.





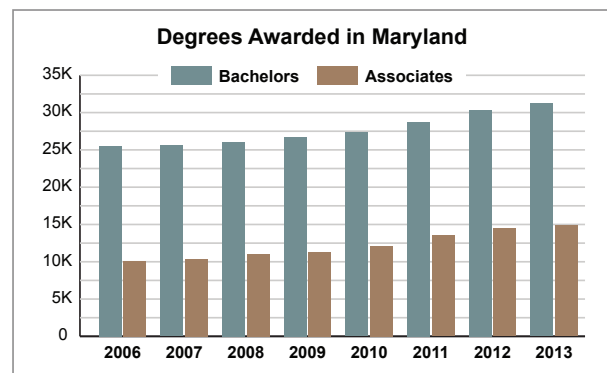
**GOAL: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING AND PASSING AP EXAMS BY 25%**



**Progress:** Maryland has made great strides in preparing students to succeed in college. In 2013, more than 57,000 Maryland students took an AP exam - nearly a 61% increase since the 2005-2006 school year. What's more, Maryland's students ranked #1 for AP Success (measured as the percentage of the graduating class of 2013 that took and passed an AP exam with a score of 3 or higher) for the 8th consecutive year.



**GOAL: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE DEGREES, BACHELOR'S DEGREES, AND STEM GRADUATES BY 25%**

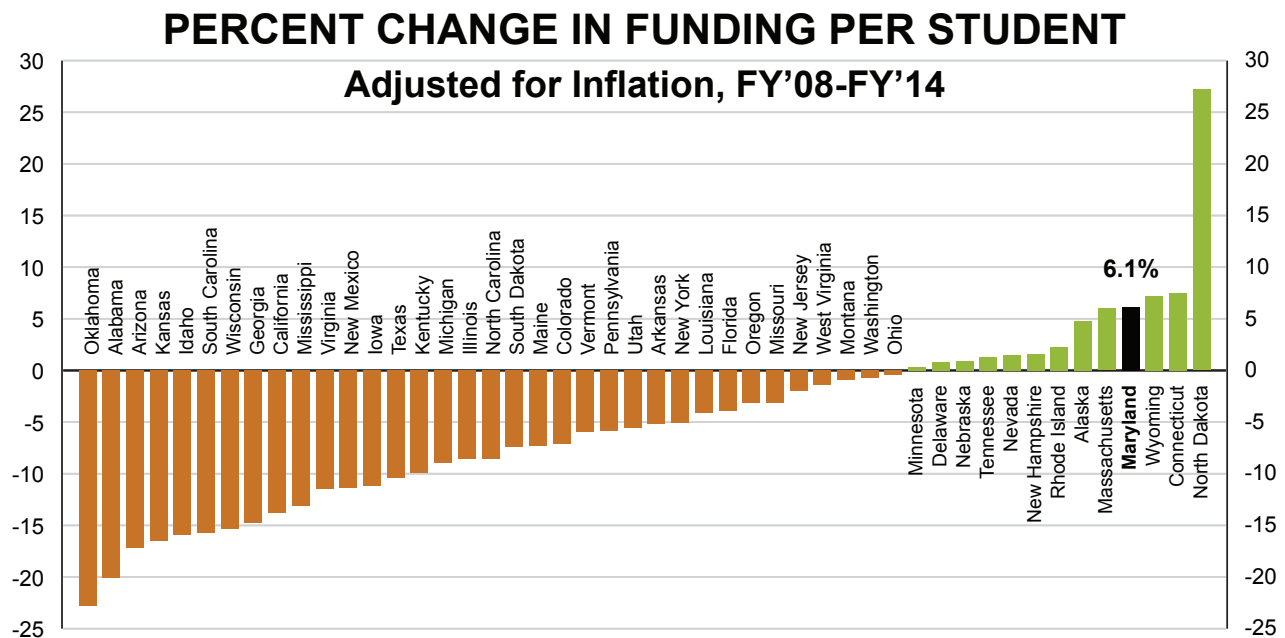
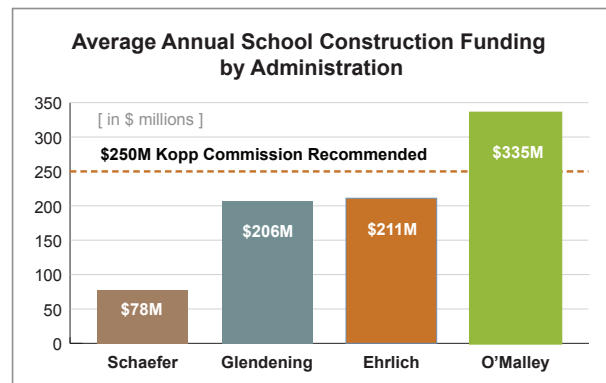
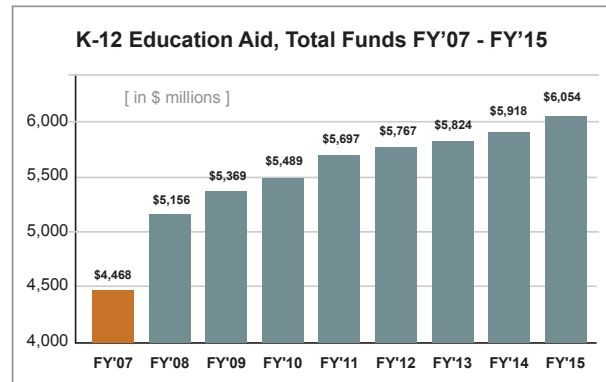


**Progress:** Under Governor O'Malley, the number of students graduating with an associate degree increased 47% and the number of bachelor's degree graduates increased 23%. In the modern economy, job opportunity in STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Math) will likely grow at a faster rate than all other sectors. That's why the O'Malley-Brown Administration worked to improve STEM programs in K-12 as well as in the State's colleges and universities. In the 2012-2013 school year, more than 13,000 Marylanders graduated with a college degree in a STEM field – a 37% increase over the 2005-2006 number.

## FUNDING

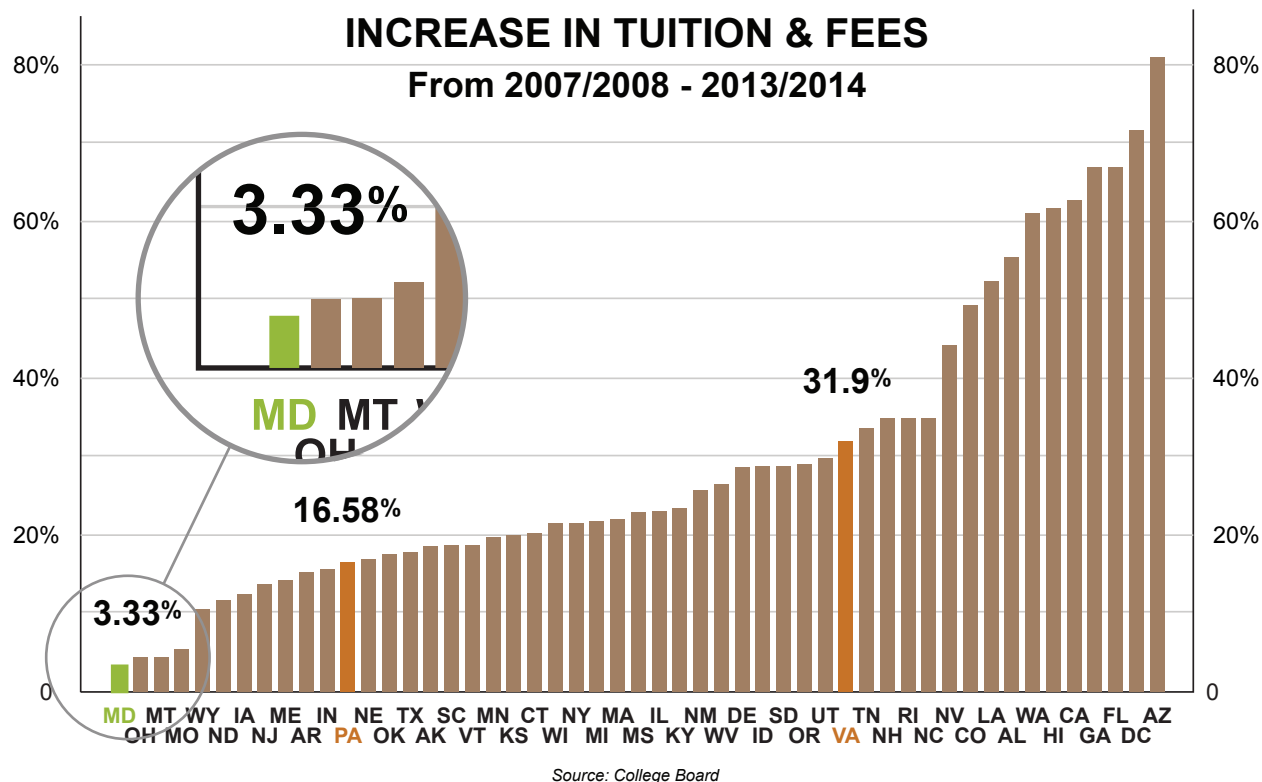
**State Support of K-12 Education:** Despite the national recession, the O'Malley-Brown Administration chose to invest in education, making record investments in Maryland's students. The FY15 budget allocates \$6.1 billion in K-12 education. According to a report by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Maryland was one of only 14 states that increased per-student spending in that period. Maryland had the fourth highest increase in per-pupil funding during the economic slowdown (from FY08 to FY14).

**School Construction:** The O'Malley-Brown Administration prioritized school construction, so that Maryland's children can learn in state-of-the-art classrooms. Including the FY15 budget, budgets under the administration averaged \$335 million per year in school construction investments, which is higher than the \$250 million yearly appropriation recommended by the Kopp Commission, as well as the \$211 million average of the previous administration.



Sources: CBPP Budget Analysis and National Center for Education Statistics enrollment estimates





**Controlling Tuition:** Even in the midst of a national recession, Governor O'Malley froze the cost of college tuition at Maryland's public universities for four years in a row – the only state in the country to do so. During O'Malley's tenure, Maryland's ranking for cost of tuition at public four-year institutions improved from being the 8th most expensive in the nation to 27th according to the College Board. Since 2007-2008, Maryland has done more than any other state in the nation to hold down the cost of college.

**State Support of Maryland Higher Education:** Governor O'Malley's 2015 budget allocates \$1.40 billion for investments in colleges and universities – a 34% increase over the \$1.08 billion of the previous administration's final budget. And to further build Maryland's competitive workforce, O'Malley-Brown increased funding for Maryland's community colleges by \$92 million or nearly 45% since FY2007.

**Maryland Digital Learning Innovation Fund:** In 2013, the O'Malley-Brown Administration invested \$3.5 million to launch the Digital Learning Innovation Fund, which continues

into 2015. The fund provides resources to local school districts to maximize the potential of new and emerging technologies, and to improve student outcomes. Using competitive grants, the administration supports schools as they transform into comprehensive digital learning environments.

**Maryland Early College Innovation Fund:** The O'Malley-Brown Administration invested \$2 million in the FY2014 budget, and an additional \$1.4 million in the FY2015 budget, to create the Maryland Early College Innovation Fund. The Fund supports the creation and expansion of early college access programs that provide accelerated pathways in STEM or STEM-related CTE (Computer & Technical Education) programs.

**One Step Away Grant Program:** The O'Malley-Brown Administration set an ambitious goal that 55% of Maryland adults will hold an associate or bachelor's degree by 2025. To reach this goal, Governor O'Malley and the Maryland Higher Education Commission created the One Step Away Grant Program. This competitive grant program aims to increase college completion rates by providing bache-

lor's degree-granting Maryland institutions with grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$60,000 to identify, contact, re-enroll, and graduate near-completers. These are students who have earned a significant number of credits toward a bachelor's degree, or who may have enough credits for a degree but stopped or dropped out for more than twelve months.

**Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA)**

**Program:** Recognizing that it is harder for a child to learn when he or she is hungry, the O'Malley-Brown Administration increased investments in MMFA, an innovative program that offers free school breakfast in the classroom. The program operates each morning for all students, regardless of family income, at select, high-need schools. The Administration's FY2014 budget made record investments in the MMFA, allowing the program to expand to 100 additional schools in the 2013-2014 school year. In FY2015, the Administration increased investments in MMFA by an additional \$1.7 million, which will bring the program to a projected 40,000 additional students.



**Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF):**

Under the Tax Reform Act of 2007, the O'Malley-Brown Administration dedicated a portion of Maryland's corporate tax revenues to support higher education. Money from the fund, along with general fund appropriations, has been used to keep tuition affordable for Marylanders at two- and four-year public colleges and universities. With the help of the HEIF, Governor O'Malley held tuition increases for in-state undergraduates enrolled in public institutions to a modest 3% for the fourth year in a row.





## REFORMS

**P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland:** In 2007, Governor O'Malley created the P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland by executive order; and in 2010 the state legislature established it by statute. The Council brings the Maryland State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, and the Department of Business and Economic Development together to strengthen educational achievement from pre-school through college, and beyond. The Partnership has created programs to encourage students to consider and to prepare for college, and works with PreK-12 schools, colleges and government to improve teacher quality.

**Higher Education Course Redesign:** In 2007, the University System of Maryland, with Governor O'Malley's support, launched a course redesign effort to improve graduation rates. The redesign program is aimed at increasing student success and allowing students to proceed quickly to higher level courses, thus saving valuable tuition dollars. The program focuses on high-enrollment, entry-level courses, which, due to their high demand, prevent some students from proceeding to credit-bearing courses.

**Teacher and Principal Recruitment and Training:** The quality of educators and administrators is among the most important factors in building student achievement. The O'Malley-Brown Administration has worked with local school districts to ensure economically disadvantaged students receive the same high-quality, effective education as their peers. The State Department of Education's Principals' Academy, in coordination with the Johns Hopkins School of Education, offers principals a common platform for sharing solutions and improving their schools. Additionally, MSDE works with the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education to expand professional development opportunities for our teachers.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE)/Project Lead the Way (PLTW):** The O'Malley-Brown Administration set ambitious CTE graduation goals to prepare Maryland students with the skills they need to succeed in high-demand industries like information technology and bioscience. In addition, Maryland joined Project Lead the Way, a national not-for-profit organization established to help solve the country's high-tech staffing shortage. The program sparks interest in engineering at a young age by introducing middle and high school students to pre-engineering curriculum, software, and professional development. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) has partnered with PLTW and participating Maryland high schools to help teachers with curriculum, and to give students college credit for completing a pre-engineering pathway.

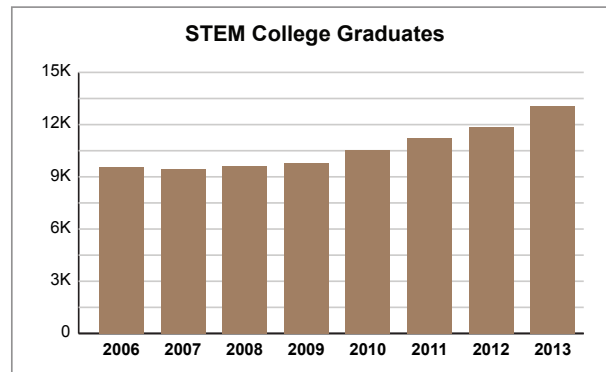
**Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) Maryland Survey:** The O'Malley-Brown Administration and MSDE created the first ever statewide survey of Maryland educators, TELL Maryland, in 2009. TELL Maryland gathers information about school conditions, teacher satisfaction, and opportunities to improve teaching and learning. The survey opened in March 2009, and successfully reached more than 43,000 educators in more than 1,000 schools. The state shared preliminary data with schools in May 2009, and since, teachers and principals have been implementing constructive and innovative changes based on the results.

**Maryland College and Career Ready Standards:** In June 2010, Maryland became one of the first states to adopt the Common Core Standards (CCS) in reading, language arts and mathematics. Using CCS as a framework, O'Malley-Brown established the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards – a set of clear goals and rigorous expectations for student aptitude in grades K-12. These standards are research- and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked and were original-

ly adopted voluntarily by 44 states and the District of Columbia.

**STEM Innovation Network:** The State partnered with the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) to create the STEM Innovation Network (STEMnet), supporting educators in STEM disciplines. STEMnet provides universal access to information, resources and opportunities through a virtual community. By participating in STEMnet, educators can promote new ideas, and share information and innovative programs.

**Race to the Top (RTTT) Funding:** In 2010, Maryland became one of only 12 states to receive a highly-coveted federal Race to the Top Grant worth \$250 million over four years. The RTTT program aims to boost student achievement, reduce gaps in achievement, turn around struggling schools and improve the teacher quality.



**Environmental, Math and Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement:** In 2011, Maryland became the first state in the nation to require high school students to complete a locally designed environmental literacy program. The program encourages students to preserve and protect the environment and the State's unique natural resources. In 2013, the State also added a fourth year of high school mathematics as a graduation requirement, as well as a financial literacy requirement. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also brought back the







High School Assessment in Government program to assess student understanding of civics and government.

**DREAM Act:** In order to ensure equality for all Maryland students, regardless of their immigration status, Gov. O'Malley proposed and signed Maryland's DREAM Act into law in 2011. Under the DREAM Act, an estimated 36,000 Maryland children will have access to in-state tuition rates at Maryland's public colleges and universities provided they meet certain academic requirements. Through 2030, the Act will create more than 19,000 jobs in Maryland and generate nearly \$5 billion in economic activity. In 2012 voters affirmed the legislation, voting 58% in favor.

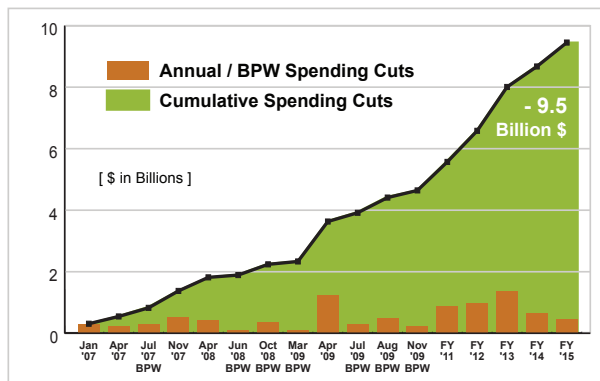
**Early Learning Challenge Grant:** In 2011, Maryland was one of nine states to receive a federal grant to improve access to quality early learning and development programs for low-income and disadvantaged children. The grant provides \$50 million to develop local early-childhood councils and improve the quality, management and oversight of early child-care facilities. The grant also increases participation in early childhood programs, promotes the use of statewide early learning and development standards, and provides professional development opportunities for childcare professionals.

**Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center:** In 2013, the O'Malley-Brown Administration invested \$2.2 million to create the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center. Launched in spring 2013, the Center collects and analyzes education and workforce data to determine how students are performing and to what extent they are prepared for higher education and the workforce. Center data is available online to researchers, policy makers, parents, students, educators and the public. The Data Quality Campaign named Governor O'Malley their 2010 State Policymaker of the Year for his efforts.

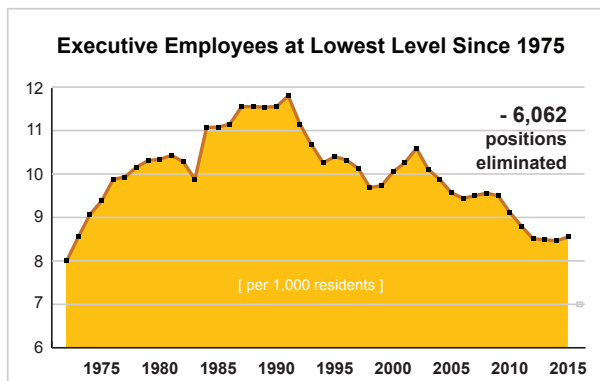


# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's fiscally responsible approach to governing has resulted in the state making significant progress in eliminating an inherited \$1.7 billion deficit, all while making smart choices to invest in things that work; education, technology and common platforms with publicly available data shared by all.



► The O'Malley-Brown Administration has **cut spending by a total of \$9.5 billion over the last eight years** – more than any administration in modern Maryland history.



► Governor O'Malley **shrank the size of government, eliminating 6,000 state positions since 2007**. Under his leadership, the state's executive branch is the smallest it has been, per capita, since 1972.

► **Maryland is 1 of only 7 states to maintain a AAA-bond rating from all three credit rating agencies through the recession.**

► Governor O'Malley has **held general fund budget growth to its lowest level in a generation at 2.1%** (compared to 7.5% under the preceding governor).



► Unlike governors who ignored pension system problems, or who used problems as an opportunity to attack public sector workers, Governor O'Malley **reformed Maryland's retirement system** in a fiscally responsible way without infringing on collective bargaining rights.

► Faced with \$35 billion in unfunded pension and benefit liabilities, Governor O'Malley **implemented thoughtful reforms that restored the financial health of the pension system and reduced the unfunded liability of retirees' health benefits**, all while protecting state employee benefits and access to healthcare for retirees.

For more information on Maryland's progress, visit

**GOALS.MARYLAND.GOV**